

Delegate- Vetting a Candidate

By Bruce Finch

Scorecard

How to score a candidate. Suggestion: Create a Score Card and Scale that you are comfortable with to record the candidate’s responses.

1. What is important to the people who elected you as their delegate?
 Take the time to ask the Caucus Goers. The Precinct Chair should be able to help in contacting them. Use those answers to create the topics of interest from the precinct attendees on the scorecard. Avoid adding too many questions on the score card, somewhere between 5-10 is ideal. Too many questions become a checklist and discourage sincere interactions. The questions should be open-ended and delve into what the candidate’s political philosophy is, rather than getting a practiced answer. A few examples are listed below. Keep what you like and update your scorecard with what you feel will get you the information needed to decide who to support.

2. Core Baseline Qualifications for the Job

Qualification for Office	Position	Strong-Weak	Positive/Negative
Applicable Experience			
Education			
Life Experience			
Threshold issues like SB54			

3. What are the candidate’s Core Values?

Questions to Draw Out Values	Position	Strong-Weak	Pos/Neg
What are the tools you will use to evaluate the effectiveness of policy implementation?			
What are the conditions necessary to add or strengthen regulations?			
Tell me about the criteria you use for evaluating tax policy that will cut or add taxes or fees.			
Why are you running for office?			

4. What are the prime objectives that a candidate wants to achieve?

Candidate Agenda	Position	Strong-Weak	Pos/Neg
What do you want to accomplish in your first term?			
What is something you want to work on but are unsure if you can accomplish in your first term?			
What Core Values/Principles guide you in your political choices and policies?			
Tell me what I should have asked, but did not.			

5. Pull it all together.

- After you have gathered information obtained in person and read the candidate's literature, it is decision time. If you still have questions, reach out to the candidate directly.
- Remember, there is no wrong decision. You were elected to vet the candidate and use your best judgment as to who is the best candidate. The people who elected you trusted your judgment, and so should you.

NOTE: It is often the case that you agree with some people most of the time and not all the time. That is OK. If you agree with the candidate 80—90+ of the time, that person is a viable candidate. It is also good to use other intangible factors (your gut) to decide. Beware, many people in politics will tell you what you want to hear, and do the opposite when in office. It is important to **Judge Their Character** the best you can.

Sources of Information.

1. ‘Meet the Candidate’ events. They will send out an email or text inviting you to a library or other venue to meet with them in a small group.
 - Several organizations hold meet-the-candidate events. Examples: Davis County Conservatives, League of Women Voters, County GOP. You will likely receive invitations to these.
 - Some candidates hold their own events.
 - Cottage Meetings, where a person hosts an event in their home.
2. Candidate Web Sites.
 - These can usually be found on the County or State Website.
 - Some are very basic, and others are extensive.

- Explore everything on these websites; they provide an insight into how the candidate does their work.
- Quality, thoroughness, and informative.

3. Contact the Candidate directly.

- Contact information is part of the normal profile disclosures that a candidate provides.
- Create a list of questions beforehand. Know what questions you want to ask, use the scorecard, and add what you want.
- If a candidate does not have time to talk to you and answer your questions, that is a hard no for me. They should also follow up on topics that they are unable to fully respond to, do research, or contemplate. If the candidate does not get back to you, I consider that to be blowing you off.

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